



For Immediate Release

Pomperaug River Low-Flow Plan Action Level Reached

*First threshold, "Increased Awareness," reached
People in the Pomperaug Basin reminded to use water wisely*

Southbury, Conn., June 28, 2021 – As the state of Connecticut is again experiencing lower than average rainfall amounts, river flows in the Pomperaug River have hit the first flow threshold in the Heritage Village Water system’s low-flow operations plan. As called for in the plan, Connecticut Water’s Heritage Village Water Division, the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, and the Town of Southbury are taking steps to increase public awareness of the river flow.

This is the first of three possible action levels identified in the plan. While customers of Heritage Village Water and private well owners are always encouraged to use water wisely, now that the Increased Awareness action level has been reached, they are being asked to be even more cautious with how they use water as it has an impact on the Pomperaug Aquifer that can affect river flows.

The typical low-flow period for the Pomperaug occurs between July 1 and October 31st, and this is the kind of scenario that was envisioned when the low-flow operations plan was developed. The plan was based on earlier in-stream habitat studies that identified water-level needs for various fish species during these months which make up the rearing and growth bio-period. Given the proximity of the Heritage Village Water wells to the Pomperaug River, river flows are an early indicator that conservation measures should be encouraged to help protect fish communities while also protecting drinking water supplies.

The current river flow is about 32.0 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is below the first trigger of 32.7 cfs. The next trigger, which would include a call for conservation, would be when the flows are less than 15 cfs.

Current Action Level	Low Flow Threshold	Pomperaug River Discharge	Action Level
✓	I	Less than 32.7 cfs	Increased Awareness
	II	Less than 15 cfs	Water Conservation Desired
	III	Less than 7 cfs	Water Conservation Strongly Requested

Heritage Village Water customers and private well owners can visit ctwater.com/conservation for water conservation tips. The current Pomperaug River status and Action Levels can be viewed online at www.pomperaug.org/lowflowplan.

About Connecticut Water

Connecticut Water is regulated by the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority, provides water service to more than 104,000 customers in 60 Connecticut towns and wastewater service to 3,000 customers in the town of Southbury, Connecticut.

(More)

The towns served are Ashford, Avon, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Bolton, Brooklyn, Burlington, Canton, Chester, Clinton, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Deep River, Durham, East Granby, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Essex, Farmington, Griswold, Guilford, Haddam, Hebron, Killingly, Killingworth, Lebanon, Madison, Manchester, Mansfield, Marlborough, Middlebury, Naugatuck, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Oxford, Plainfield, Plymouth, Portland, Prospect, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Southbury, Stafford, Stonington, Suffield, Thomaston, Thompson, Tolland, Vernon, Voluntown, Waterbury, Westbrook, Willington, Windsor Locks and Woodstock.

About the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

PRWC's mission is to ensure plentiful high quality water in the Pomperaug Watershed communities through the use of science and education. We share our knowledge and expertise with others committed to the protection of the vital water resources upon which we all depend. PRWC accomplishes its mission by employing the latest science to advance best management of the watershed and by creating a partnership of local governments, businesses, private individuals, scientists and environmental groups who work collaboratively to protect the health and vibrancy of the Watershed.

PRWC's programs and services include: development and acquisition of scientific watershed and river data; provision of technical assistance on environmental challenges; and facilitation of educational programs. All of PRWC's programs and activities underscore our collective roles as stewards of our environment and promote good habits to keep our watershed and rivers healthy.

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News Media Contacts:

Connecticut Water – Dan Meaney at 860-664-6016 or dmeaney@ctwater.com
Pomperaug River Watershed Association – Anne Urkawich at 203-263-0076 or info@pomperaug.org
Town of Southbury, Jeff Manville at 203-262-0647 or selectman@southbury-ct.gov